EPASS Educational Providers Accreditation Scheme Scotland

Quality Assuring the delivery of primary care education

Newsletter

RCGP Scotland

Royal College of General Practitioners

www.rcgp-scotland.org.uk/epass

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WELCOME NOTE

Welcome to the second issue of the EPASS newsletter. We thank you for your positive feedback on the Spring 2009 edition and hope you will find this issue as interesting and informative.

2009 continues to see an increase in the number of EPASS Providers joining the scheme. To view the list of new providers, please read section on our 'New EPASS Providers'.

We hope you enjoy this quarterly newsletter and once again, if you have any suggestions for articles or news items, please let us know.

Laura Kelleher
Projects & Initiatives Co-ordinator

A day in the life of a Quality Assurance (QA) Assessor

In my normal day, I am a GP with the usual appointments, prescriptions, messages and visits, not to mention the planning and management. So a day at a course always seems like light relief. Then the realisation that to get to Glasgow for 9 am involves a much earlier start, a commute further than 500yards and some navigation. It's often a relief just to find a venue! I will have contacted the event organiser a few days beforehand, hopefully to reassure them that I am present just to check for the quality of the event and see that the terms and conditions of the accreditation are fulfilled.

Attending as a course assessor can be a challenge, needing to concentrate more on the delivery of the course than the content. The course material is inevitably of great interest to me as a working GP, and I frequently wish to ask questions and join in, but as an assessor not a delegate, I must step back and assess how interactions are working for the delegates. My job is made easier by the standard Quality Assurance Checklist that I must complete, and feed this back to the course organiser at the end of the course, or at a suitable time. I often enter into an informative dialogue about possible difficulties experienced, innovative methods adopted and further plans. Many of the course organisers are very experienced educationalists and can offer many positive and useful hints that can be shared with others.

A written assessment is completed and amalgamated by my colleagues in the RCGP Scotland, EPASS office with whom I have regular contact. A summary is then passed back promptly to the course organiser with feedback and any recommendations.

In my experience, the assessment is a positive experience for both me and the course organisers. Personally, I have been to some fascinating sessions on subjects I possibly wouldn't have chosen to attend. I have learnt the value of quality courses and concentrating on this has helped to keep my learning focused and relevant. I believe EPASS accreditation to be very valuable, and the visits and delegate questionnaires ensure that the quality can continue to be assured.

Now to travel back for an afternoon of the real job, and home for a run and possibly a small glass of wine.....

Dr Mary Abercrombie
EPASS Quality Assurance Assessor

Contact

If you would like further information on EPASS or would like to become an EPASS Provider, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

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Some EPASS accredited events/e-modules coming soon, June—August 2009

Date: 02/06/2009
Title: Sexually Transmitted Infection Foundation Course
Provider: Sandyford Initiative

Date: 02/06/2009
Title: Anticipatory Care:Moving Across Scotland Conference 2009
Provider: NHS Health Scotland

Date: 04/06/2009
Title: Diabetes Prescribing Forum
Provider: Kirkcaldy & Levenmouth CHP

Date: 04/06/2009
Title: Upper GI Diseases and Obesity
Provider: BMI Ross Hall Hospital

Date: 04/06/2009
Title: Care of the Elderly: "Old Problems....New Ideas"
Provider: Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh

Date: 04/06/2009
Title: New Antibiotic Prescribing Guidelines for Primary Care
Provider: West Dunbartonshire CHP

Date: 09/06/2009
Title: Emotional Support
Provider: Roxburghe House, NHS Grampian

Date: 09/06/2009
Title: Immediate Care
Provider: NHS Dumfries & Galloway

Date: 17/06/2009
Title: Understanding Medical Terms
Provider: RCGP North East Scotland Faculty

Date: 26/06/2009
Title: Minor Surgery in General Practice
Provider: Cuschieri Skills Centre, University of Dundee

Date: 01/07/2009
Title: Working with Others
Provider: General Practice & Primary Care, University of Glasgow

Date: 23/09/2009
Title: PLT Scheme for all PC Teams in the Borders
Provider: Borders Time

Date: N/A - E-module
Title: The beta cell—looking at beta call dysfunction and the association between insulin resistance and cardiovascular risk
Provider: BMJ Learning

If you would like to view more events, please visit our webpage at www.rcgp-scotland.org.uk/events

Hot Topic!
Revalidation – What's been happening?

Following the consultation based on Criteria, Standards and Evidence, the Royal College of General Practitioners published the first edition of the ***Guide to the Revalidation of General Practitioners*** on 1 April 2009. This guide aims to answer queries that GPs may have about Revalidation. It also sets out the RCGP's current proposals for the processes and the evidence that GPs will be required to collect for Revalidation. RCGP Chairman, Professor Steve Field says "The Guide is the result of widespread consultation and reflects the differing needs of those working in many different employment circumstances across the UK". For further information or to view this guide, please visit: www.rcgp.org.uk/revalidation

Featured Provider - Roxburghe House, NHS Grampian

Gaining an insight into our providers and how they use EPASS

Roxburghe House is a specialist palliative care unit, funded by NHS Grampian. It was originally opened in 1977 in the suburbs of Aberdeen, but in 2004 we moved into a purpose-built facility in the grounds of Royal Cornhill Hospital, adjacent to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.

Roxburghe House has 21 in-patient beds, a day unit and an out-patient department on the ground floor, surrounded by a large garden. Upstairs, we have 2 seminar rooms, a library and office space. A Senior Lecturer in Palliative Care (Nursing) is employed to co-ordinate the education programme. All senior members of staff are interested in participating in the education programme and it has proved to be useful to have one person overseeing the co-ordination and organisation of the programme.

The education programme focuses on palliative care, and was designed especially for practitioners working in primary care. We have offered an informal seminar programme within Roxburghe House since December 2004 and to date have run over 200 sessions on topics ranging from pain management and aspects of symptom control to communication and psycho-social support. These sessions tend to be around 90 minutes long to enable primary care staff time to attend them during the working day. Its informality has enabled us to attend to current topics of interest to staff working with palliative patients. Our main audience is community nursing staff, but GPs and other professionals regularly access our programme. More recently, we have run a short two day course in advances palliative care for GPs. In addition, we take our education programme out and about to GP surgeries as part of the "protected learning time" initiative as well as to community hospitals. Our initial feedback has confirmed that short, clinically focused sessions, taught by specialists, are well received by practitioners. As well as providing practitioners with confidence to care for their patients, it helps to build links between primary care and the specialist unit.

We became accredited through EPASS last summer and see it as a helpful quality assurance mechanism for our informal education programme. Although we did undertake our own evaluation prior to becoming an EPASS provider, we see it as a helpful framework and a demonstration of our commitment to quality assurance for potential attendees. We ran 11 EPASS events in the Autumn of 2008 and are currently offering 8 seminars in our Spring programme.

Dr Sally Lawton and Dr David Carroll, Roxburghe House, NHS Grampian

New EPASS Providers

We would like to welcome the following providers who have joined EPASS this year:

- **East Renfrewshire Community Health Partnership (February 2009)**
- **Eli Lilly (February 2009)**
- **10 Minute CBT (March 2009)**
- **Doctor Online Ltd (April 2009)**

If you have any suggestions for topics or items for this newsletter, please contact the EPASS Team at epass@rcgp-scotland.org.uk Thank you!